

EASL Endorsed Consortia Policy

Purpose of EASL Endorsed Consortia

EASL Endorsed Consortia are independent, collaborative research networks composed of clinical and/or biomedical research centres with a focus on advancing hepatology. These consortia aim to foster high-impact, multidisciplinary research, promote knowledge exchange between basic and clinical science, and create a critical mass of expertise around specific liver-related topics.

Through endorsement, EASL acknowledges the scientific merit, strategic relevance, and collaborative potential of the consortium. Endorsement supports the consortium's visibility, credibility, and ability to engage stakeholders such as funders, industry partners, and the broader hepatology community.

Importantly, EASL endorsement does not imply operational involvement or governance responsibility. Each consortium retains full autonomy over its internal structure, governance, funding strategies, and research activities.

EASL will only endorse consortia that are initiated by current EASL members and demonstrate alignment with EASL's mission to be the Home of Hepatology for everyone engaged in beating liver diseases.

What EASL Provides to an Endorsed Consortium

- 1. Brand use**
Right to use the EASL name and logo in official consortium materials, subject to EASL brand guidelines.
- 2. Communication support**
Opportunities to disseminate consortium activities through EASL communication platforms (e.g., newsletters, website, social media).
- 3. Scientific integration**
Opportunity to be involved in sessions or contribute content for EASL Congress and other EASL events, subject to Governing Board approval.
- 4. General Assembly support**
Use of a meeting room during EASL Congress (max. 2-hour timeslot, subject to availability) for the consortium's annual general assembly or other relevant consortium meeting.

What EASL Expects from an Endorsed Consortium

- 1. EASL membership requirement**
Only consortia initiated by EASL members will be considered for endorsement.
- 2. Scientific integrity and impact**
Consortia must demonstrate clear scientific objectives, collaborative strategy, and relevance to hepatology research.
- 3. Independent governance**
Each consortium must establish its own governing structure, statutes, and internal policies and retain full autonomy over its governance. EASL will not be involved in

the governance of the consortium; however, a representative of the EASL Governing Board shall be included in the consortium's governing structure in an observer or liaison capacity.

4. Meetings and Scientific Activities

Consortia are free to organise internal meetings and activities necessary to support collaboration, coordination, and the advancement of their scientific objectives. However, such activities must not include independent scientific or educational meetings, conferences, or initiatives that may overlap with, replicate, or be perceived as substituting the educational, scientific, or leadership role of EASL at a European or international level. Any scientific or educational activities with broader external visibility should be conducted in alignment with EASL policies and, where appropriate, in coordination with EASL.

5. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Consortia are expected to adhere to EASL's EDI policy in their membership, leadership, and activities.

6. Transparency and Accountability

Consortia must operate as not-for-profit entities and maintain transparent processes for decision-making, data sharing, funding allocation, and authorship.

7. Use of Endorsement

The EASL name may only be used in association with approved consortium activities.

Endorsement Process for EASL Consortia

1. Submission of proposal

A formal application is submitted by one or more current EASL members, including:

- Name and proposed focus of the consortium
- Scientific rationale and objectives
- List of founding centres and investigators
- Proposed or existing governance structure
- Draft or approved statutes or operating principles
- Description of how the consortium will uphold EASL's EDI policy

2. Due Diligence by EASL Office

The EASL Office reviews the application to ensure:

- Compliance with administrative and membership requirements
- Clarity on independence of governance
- Adherence to non-profit principles
- Alignment with EDI and transparency expectations

3. Initial review by EASL Management Committee

The EASL Management Committee may conduct a review to assess:

- Scientific merit and strategic alignment
- Feasibility of objectives
- Structure and scope of collaboration

4. Presentation to the EASL Governing Board

The lead applicant(s) may be invited to present the consortium proposal to the EASL Governing Board (virtually or in-person), outlining:

- Vision and goals
- Anticipated impact on hepatology research and/or education
- Needs and expectations from EASL

5. Deliberation and decision by the EASL Governing Board

The EASL Governing Board reviews all materials and recommendations, then decides by majority vote whether to:

- Approve the consortium for EASL endorsement.
- Request modifications before re-evaluation.
- Decline the application

6. Formal communication of decision

EASL provides a written confirmation of endorsement, including permitted use of the EASL name/logo and a copy of the expectations document.

If endorsement is declined, EASL communicates the rationale and, if appropriate, suggestions for future re-submission.

7. Public announcement

EASL may announce the newly endorsed consortium via its communication channels following approval.

Review Process for EASL Endorsed Consortia

1. Purpose

The review process is intended to ensure that EASL Endorsed Consortia continue to align with EASL's mission, values, and expectations, while fully preserving the consortia's independence and governance autonomy. The review is not an evaluation of scientific performance at project level, nor an audit of internal governance.

2. Review Frequency

Reviews are conducted every two years, at the discretion of the EASL Management Committee.

3. Documentation Submitted by the Consortium

Consortia are required to submit an Annual Activity Report as a condition for maintaining EASL endorsement. The Annual Activity Report must:

- be written in English.
- follow the standard reporting template provided by EASL, including:
 - Summary of activities during the review period.
 - Key scientific or collaborative outputs (e.g. studies initiated, publications, funding obtained).
 - Confirmation of continued independent governance and not-for-profit status.
 - Confirmation of adherence to EASL policies, including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).
 - Overview of engagement with EASL activities (e.g. congress sessions, assemblies).

- include a summary of scientific activities, outputs, governance updates, membership, and an overview of income sources (if any).
- be uploaded annually via the EASL online platform, using the same procedure applied for endorsement requests. The report will be publicly accessible on the EASL website to ensure transparency, visibility, and accountability of EASL Endorsed Consortia.

4. Review by the EASL Management Committee

The EASL Management Committee reviews the submitted documentation to assess:

- Continued alignment with EASL's mission and hepatology priorities.
- Appropriate and responsible use of the EASL name and endorsement.
- Compliance with the expectations outlined in the Endorsed Consortia Policy.
- Any potential reputational, ethical, or compliance risks for EASL

No direct involvement in consortium decision-making or governance is undertaken as part of the review.

5. Possible Outcomes

Following review, the EASL Management Committee may decide to:

- Confirm continuation of endorsement.
- Request clarifications or corrective actions, with a defined timeline.
- Place the endorsement under review pending additional information.
- Recommend withdrawal of endorsement to the EASL Governing Board if expectations are no longer met.

6. Escalation and Withdrawal

Any recommendation to withdraw endorsement is submitted to the EASL Governing Board for final decision. The consortium will be informed in writing of the outcome and, where applicable, given the opportunity to respond before a final decision is made.

7. Administrative Coordination

The EASL Office supports the process by coordinating submissions, timelines, and communications between the consortium, the Management Committee, and the Governing Board.

Annex 1: Current EASL Endorsed Consortia

Consortium:	EASL-BAVENO Consortium	Since:
 an EASL Consortium		2019
 European Network for the Study of Cholangiocarcinoma (ENS-CCA)	European Network for the Study of Cholangiocarcinoma (ENS- CCA)	2019
 EF CLIF EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF CHRONIC LIVER FAILURE	EASL-CLIF Consortium	2009
 Regenerative Hepatology	EASL Consortium for Regenerative Hepatology	2019
 SALVE STUDY OF ALCOHOL-RELATED LIVER DISEASE IN EUROPE	EASL Consortium for the Study of alcohol-related liver disease (SALVE)	2019
 VALDIG VASCULAR LIVER DISEASE GROUP	EASL VALDIG (Vascular Liver Group) Consortium	2019
 EASL DHILI DRUG AND HERBAL & DIETARY SUPPLEMENT-INDUCED LIVER INJURY CONSORTIUM	EASL DHILI – Drug and Herbal & Dietary Supplement-Induced Liver Injury Consortium	2022
 ISHEN	EASL ISHEN Consortium – International Society for Hepatic Encephalopathy and Nitrogen Metabolism	2026